

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification and claims as filed and thus do not constitute new matter.

Remarks

1. Claim rejections for double patenting

Claims 13-15, 21-25, and 28-31 were rejected based on an assertion of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-28 of U.S. Patent No. 6,620,591. The applicants herewith are submitting a terminal disclaimer to obviate this rejection. The applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

2. Claim rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The patent office rejected claims 13-15, 21-25, and 28-31 as being indefinite under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. The applicants have amended the claims to obviate the rejections. The applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

3. Supplemental information disclosure statement

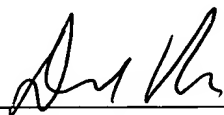
The applicants submitted a supplemental information disclosure statement with the response to the office action filed on January 5, 2004. The applicants are herewith submitting the return receipt postcard from the patent office indicating that the information disclosure statement and cited references were received. However, the patent office did not provide the applicants with a copy of the 1449 statement initialed by the examiner. The applicants respectfully request that the patent office furnish such a marked version of the 1449 form with the next official action.

Based on all of the above, the applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 913-2106.

Respectfully submitted,

**McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert &
Berghoff**

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